

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 02-009(b)
Non-intentional Release**

Technical Area (TA)-2, located in Los Alamos Canyon, housed several reactors, including the Omega West and Water Boiler Reactors. The reactors were shutdown, removed from the nuclear facilities list, and placed into the Laboratory's Decontamination and Decommissioning program.

PRS History: PRS 02-009(b) consists of an area of radioactive subsurface soil contamination located north of Building 2-19 that was identified during the decommissioning of several buildings at TA-2 in 1986. The bridge at TA-2 was being used as a temporary truck staging area when detectable radioactivity was found in the area. After removing several contaminated items from Building 2-19 and adding six inches of topsoil to the area, there was still minor contamination. Contaminants of potential concern are associated with the Water Boiler Reactor and include technetium-99, strontium-90, iodine-131, and cesium-137. Field screening was conducted in 1995. Results showed no detectable concentrations of organic chemicals and no alpha activity above instrument background. Beta/gamma activity was elevated slightly above instrument background.

PRS 02-009(b) is listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module to the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The ER Project has not proposed the site for no further action. The existing data is inadequate; only surface samples have been taken and the extent of contamination has not been determined.



Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 02-009(b) burned during the Cerro Grande fire. The intensity of upstream burn was low to moderate. Surface contamination was found during the 1995 field investigation, and contaminated surface soils may be subject to erosion. There is no debris on the site that could enter the flood watercourse. There are no structures that could interfere with or be impacted by flood mitigation efforts.

Accelerated Action Status: PRS 02-009(b) was evaluated after the Cerro Grande fire. ER Project personnel completed two boreholes and collected eight samples. The data has not yet been validated or reviewed.

Related Documents:

"TA-2 Water Boiler Reactor Decommissioning (Phase I)," LANL Report LA-10890-MS, October 1986.

"Solid Waste Management Units Reports," Vol. I of IV (TA-0 through TA-9) LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.

"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098 (TA-2, 41)," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.